

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF LOCUSTIDÆ.

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Hectoria, *gen. nov.*

Male (imago and nymph).—Body stout, short, somewhat compressed laterally.

Head rather small; vertex raised, somewhat globose above, and forming a short ridge between the antennæ, with abrupt sides, a fine furrow lengthwise, and separated by transverse furrows at either end.

Eyes rather small, very prominent, ocelli not apparent.

Palpi long, slender, joints cylindrical, last joint slightly thickened towards extremity; tips rounded.

Antennæ extremely slender, setaceous, fully twice the length of the body or more, finely ciliated towards the tips; base below and inwards surrounded by a narrow ridge; joints cylindrical, very numerous; first joint very stout, a little longer than thick; second somewhat shorter and half as thick; third again diminished in the same proportion; the remainder nearly of the same length and gradually tapering to the end.

Thorax stout, narrow; sides straight, flat. Prothorax with a steep saddle-like depression near the front, continued along the side in the form of two or three shallow closely adjoining furrows; anterior part raised, hood-like, triangular, hollow in front, and terminating in an acute point; posterior pronotum about four times longer, lateral edges indistinct, raised semi-globosely, and terminating in a stout, oblique, conical spine on each side. The middle dorsal shield extends somewhat beyond the base of the forewings, where the lateral margins ascend obliquely at an angle of about 40° , meeting at a sharp point over the base of the abdomen. The middle of the pentagonal area is occupied by a high lentil-shaped hollow crest, with a circular, notched margin in front and above; its surface is traversed by six distinct main veins starting from the base near the front, which emit a few longitudinal branches, and more numerous but less distinct transverse veins. The sides descend very low, the rounded margins forming a narrow recurved ridge. The meso- and metathorax are much higher and stronger than the prothorax, the sides flat, straight, and separated by deep furrows. The pro- and meso-

sternum are narrow, depressed in the middle, the coxæ surrounded by distinct ridges; the metasternum entirely obliterated by the coxæ of the hind legs.

Legs slender, long; the posterior pair about two and a half times the length of the body, more or less angular. Tibiæ of all and the femora of the hind legs spiny. Tarsi four-jointed, stout; claws long and slender. Auditory areolet oval, large, free.

Abdomen compressed, subconical, twice the length of head and thorax together; segments, ten dorsal and eight or nine ventral, former along medial line overlapping and forming acute points; ventral plates subquadrate, surrounded by a narrow ridge. Anal plate deeply emarginate; cerci short, finely ciliate, and curved inwards.

Tegmina and wings more than twice the length of the body; slope very steep, except that of the interior area of the tegmina, which alone is horizontal in repose. The latter are thin, leathery, translucent, convex in front, concave behind, nearly of equal width throughout, tips rounded, border oblique; the costal area is broadly lanceolate near the base, contracts rapidly, and then narrowly linear to the tip; the inferior area is triangular, broad at the base, but short, being scarcely one-fifth of the total length of the tegmina, and almost wholly occupied by the stridulating apparatus, consisting of several strong longitudinal veins (with slighter ramifications through the transparent membrane) in the right wing, and a very stout transverse vein, with some smaller in the left one. The discal area is several times larger than the others together, and nearly of the same width throughout, except near the base. Subcostal vein very strong, transverse branches stout, often in pairs, ultimate reticulations very numerous, meshes irregular.

Hindwings somewhat longer than tegmina, transparent, and delicate; tips rather acute, border very oblique, interior margin short; thirteen almost straight radiating veins, of which only the subcostal emits oblique branches, all being connected by mostly rectangular, simple, more or less straight transverse branches.

Hectoria Pontoni, *sp. nov.*

Pale dull green. Eyes dark brown, shining. Crest yellowish-green, margin deep brown to black. Tegmina, costal area with obliquely transverse brown lines and spots; discal area with nine or ten short broad transverse brown bars (some double, others irregular) between the subcostal and medial veins, besides eleven narrowly linear ones beyond the latter, and a number of small spots near the border and interior margin. Legs banded with brown; femora of the anterior and medial legs have three, the tibial two bands, those of the posterior legs four bands each, the last ad-

joining the tarsi, which are also brown. The femora of the fore-legs are smooth, those of the middle and hindlegs with two rows below, the two preceding the last much larger, and connected by a thin high ridge. The tibiæ of the fore and middle legs have two inferior rows, the hindlegs superior, about fourteen in each, and nearly of the same size. All the spines correspond in colour with the part adjoining.

The male nymph is similarly marked, but the darker brown preponderates, while the dull green is replaced by yellowish tints. The imperfect wings are rather long, promiscuously directed obliquely upwards, and closely applied to each other over the back. The crest is nearly as well developed as in the adult. Length of body, one inch; span of wings, four and a half to five inches.

This genus will have to be placed near to *Phylloptera* and *Phaneroptera*, with which it agrees in general habitus, but it has also through the dorsal appendages some affinity with *Heterodes* and *Megapoda*—in fact, it removes one of the distinctions between the Locustidæ and Acrididæ, viz., the absence of crests in the former and presence in the latter. However, the form of the antennæ, palpi, tarsi, &c., place it unquestionably among the former.

The first intimation of this very interesting insect was received through Mr. J. M. Bagot, who forwarded a nearly mature male nymph to the Museum, obtained in December, 1885, about Terowie. The next, an adult male, was captured by Mr. F. H. Ponton, near Beltana, during the early part of last May. The finder informed me that he captured it in his room one evening, where it, no doubt, was attracted by the light. These are the only specimens known. The female will most likely be little different in general aspect, but furnished with a long ovipositor. The habitual food plant will probably be some of the *Melaleuca* species or else the Native Pine.